



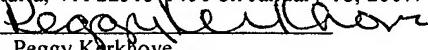
1/22 GP 1681

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: YONEHARA, et al. Examiner: L. Barnhart  
Serial No.: 10/521234 Group Art Unit: 1651  
Filed: January 13, 2005 Docket: 10873.1574USWO  
Title: METHOD OF DEGRADING PROTEIN USING SULFONIC ACID COMPOUND

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 18, 2007.

By:   
Name: Peggy Kerkhove

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. The art was recently cited in an a Chinese Office Action mailed October 20, 2006. A copy of the office action is enclosed. US 5,810,944 and US 5,902,731, which corresponds to CN 1249349, were previously cited by the Applicant in an IDS filed July 7, 2006. Copies of any foreign patent documents or "Other Documents" are enclosed.

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97, this statement is being filed (CHECK ONE):

- (1) within three (3) months of the Filing Date, before the mailing date of a First Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing date of a First Office Action on the merits after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114; or
- (2) after the period defined in (1) but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, and
  - the requisite Statement is below, OR
  - the requisite fee of \$180.00 under Rule 1.17(p) is included herein, or
- (3) after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance but on or before the payment of the Issue Fee, AND
  - the requisite Statement is below, AND

- the requisite fee of \$180.00 under Rule 1.17(p) is included herein.

## STATEMENT

Applicants hereby state that:

- Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application or by the USPTO in a related application not more than three months prior to the filing date of the Information Disclosure Statement

- If this box is checked, Applicant provides the following:

### Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d)

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item listed on the enclosed Form 1449 was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

- The Examiner is hereby advised of the following co-pending U.S. applications. A copy of each U.S. patent application publication (if published) or application (if not published) is enclosed.

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Publication No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Group</u>
10/517,853	2005-0221415	December 14, 2004	1657

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.



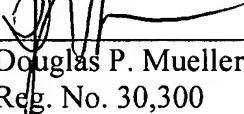
### FEE AUTHORIZATION

Should any fee associated with the submission of this paper not be attached hereto or to a check, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the missing fee to our Deposit Account, No. 50-3478. Any overpayments should be credited to said Deposit Account.

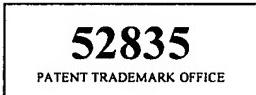
Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &  
LARSON, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2902-0902  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902  
(612) 455-3800

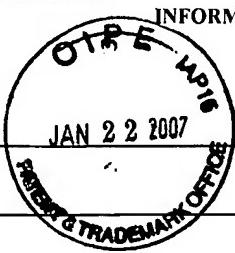
Dated: January 18, 2007

By:   
Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/pjk



<b>FORM 1449*</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b> <b>JAN 22 2007</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number:	Application Number:
	10873.1574USWO	10/521,234
	Applicant: YONEHARA, et al.	
	Filing Date: January 13, 2005	Group Art Unit: 1651



## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	02/06519	January, 2002	WIPO				

**OTHER DOCUMENTS** (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

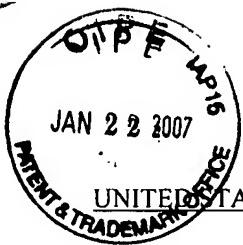
		( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , $\text{CO}_2$ , $\text{CH}_4$ , $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ )

52835

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: YONEHARA Examiner: L. Barnhart  
Serial No.: 10/521234 Group Art: 1651  
Filed: January 13, 2005 Docket: 10873.1574USWO  
Confirmation No.: 8752 Notice of Allow Date: n/a  
Due Date: n/a  
Title: METHOD OF DEGRADING PROTEIN USING SULFONIC ACID COMPOUND

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 18, 2007.

By: *Douglas P. Mueller*  
Name: Peggy Kerkhove

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

52835  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

The following papers are transmitted herewith:

- Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 1 reference, copy of Chinese Office Action
- Other: copy of Published co-pending application
- Return Postcard

Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3478. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2902 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902  
612.455-3800

By: *Douglas P. Mueller*  
Name: Douglas P. Mueller  
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Initials: DPM/pjk